The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

"Today's wonderful news would never have been announced if our economic developers could not deploy tools like the One North Carolina fund to help bring jobs to Robeson County and throughout eastern North Carolina," said Rep. Charles Graham, of Lumberton. "We fought to keep those incentives for just this reason: to put our friends and neighbors back to work."

"I want to welcome Steven Roberts Desserts to Robeson County, as they join a long line of companies that understand the benefits of our longstanding support for investing in education and worker training," said Sen. Michael Walters, of Fairmount. "They know that when they open up shop, an educated, skilled workforce will be ready for them."

North Carolina continues to have a top-ranked business climate. Through Gov. Perdue's JobsNOW initiative, the state works aggressively to create jobs, train and retrain its workforce, and lay the foundation for a strong and sustainable economic future.

Through use of the One NC Fund, more than 50,000 jobs and \$9 billion in investment have been created since 2001. Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, North Carolina's Southeast, the Town of Pembroke, Robeson County and the Robeson County Committee of 100.

For more information about Steven Roberts Original Desserts and Ticklebelly, please visit www.originaldesserts.com and www.ticklebellydesserts.com.

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